

Contact: Fiona Phelan
Media Relations Manager
860-714-17076/ 860-712-8517
FPhelan@stfranciscare.org

SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER AWARDED

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION IN HEART FAILURE

First in Connecticut and New England

(HARTFORD, Conn. – July 12, 2016) Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center today announced that it has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval® and the American Heart Association’s Heart-Check mark for [Advanced Certification in Heart Failure](#). The Gold Seal of Approval® and the Heart-Check mark represent symbols of quality from their respective organizations.

Saint Francis underwent a rigorous on-site review in April, 2016. Experts from The Joint Commission evaluated compliance with disease-specific care standards as well as with heart failure-specific requirements. The certification recognizes heart failure programs that include either a hospital-based and hospital-owned outpatient heart failure clinic or have a collaborative relationship with one or more attending cardiology practices.

“Saint Francis is pleased to receive advanced certification from The Joint Commission and the American Heart Association,” said Daniel J. Diver, M.D., director of the cardiovascular service line, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. “The certification provides us with the opportunity to highlight the exceptional heart failure care we provide as well as to continually strive to advance our care even further.”

“Saint Francis is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our heart failure patients. Being recognized by The Joint

Commission for our advanced heart failure program confirms that we are on the right track, and we're very proud of our team for achieving this honor," said Richard Soucier, M.D., director of heart failure service at Saint Francis. "We are fully committed to maintaining this very high level of performance."

"Saint Francis has thoroughly demonstrated a high level of care for patients who are being treated for heart failure," said Wendi J. Roberts, R.N., executive director, Certification Programs, The Joint Commission. "We commend Saint Francis for becoming a leader in heart failure care, potentially providing a higher standard of service for cardiac patients in its community."

"We congratulate Saint Francis for this outstanding achievement," said Nancy Brown, chief executive officer, the American Heart Association. "This certification reflects their commitment to providing the highest quality of care for patients with heart failure."

Established in 2010 and awarded for a two-year period, The Joint Commission's Advanced Certification in Heart Failure was developed in collaboration with an external task force of experts and organizations with expertise in heart failure care, including representatives from the [American Heart Association](#), [Heart Failure Society of America](#) and the [American Association of Heart Failure Nurses](#).

To be eligible for Advanced Certification in Heart Failure, health care providers must have achieved at least a Bronze level of performance from the American Heart Association's [Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure program](#) and established a comprehensive heart failure-focused program staffed by qualified medical professionals. By participating in the program, the hospital also must use the latest scientific research developed to meet individualized patient needs. Saint Francis has received the AHA's Get With The Guidelines®–Heart Failure Gold-Plus & TARGET Awards for

the past three years.

More than an estimated five million Americans suffer from heart failure, a condition in which the heart can't pump enough blood to the body's other organs, according to the American Heart Association. Although the heart keeps working, it's not as effective as it should be. Each year, about 825,000 new cases are diagnosed and more than 275,000 will die of heart failure. However, many patients can lead a full life through a combination of medication and lifestyle changes.

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is one of four separately licensed hospitals that comprise Trinity Health - New England. Trinity Health - New England's Regional Health Ministry also includes Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital in Hartford, Johnson Memorial Medical Center in Stafford Springs, and Sisters of Providence Health System, which includes Mercy Medical Center, in Springfield, Massachusetts.

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About Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. In 2015, Saint Francis became part of Trinity Health - New England, an integrated health care delivery system that is a member of Trinity Health, Livonia, MI, one of the largest multi-institutional Catholic health care delivery systems in the nation. Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other Saint Francis entities include the Comprehensive Women's Health Center, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, Smilow Cancer Hospital Yale-New Haven at Saint Francis,

and Saint Francis Medical Group. For more information, visit www.stfranciscare.com.

The Joint Commission

Founded in 1951, [The Joint Commission](http://www.jointcommission.org) seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission accredits and certifies nearly 21,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. An independent, nonprofit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

The American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – America's No. 1 and No. 4 killers. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit heart.org or call any of our offices around the country. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The familiar Heart-Check mark now helps consumers evaluate their choices in hospital care. Each mark given to a hospital is earned by meeting specific standards for the care of patients with heart disease and/or stroke. The Heart-Check mark can only be displayed by hospitals that have

achieved and defined requirements set by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. For more information on the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Hospital Accreditation Program visit www.heart.org/myhospital.